

marking his 100th hour as Presiding Officer over the U.S. Senate.

The awarding of this Golden Gavel is particularly special, as Senator COATS is retiring at the end of this Congress. It was Senator COATS' desire to win a Golden Gavel before his departure. He has achieved this honor through dedication and the willingness to assist with presiding whenever possible.

It is with sincere appreciation that I announce to the Senate the latest recipient of the Golden Gavel Award—Senator DAN COATS of Indiana.

TRANSFER OF LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES FROM TVA TO THE FOREST SERVICE

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about an issue that is of great importance to my state. For over 30 years the Tennessee Valley Authority has administered a parcel of land in Kentucky called Land Between the Lakes. For those of you who have not had the pleasure of visiting this region, Land Between the Lakes is used for recreational and educational activities and for pure enjoyment of the land's beauty.

In 1961 TVA proposed to President Kennedy that land between Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake be established as a national recreation area. In 1963 that proposal became a reality. Initially, TVA was to administer Land Between the Lakes for about 10 years as a temporary demonstration project after which permanent administration would be determined. Though no formal proceedings were held to determine who should administer Land Between the Lakes it has been the custom and practice of Congress to provide annual appropriations to TVA for Land Between the Lakes.

TVA has invested years in creating a program that meets the needs of all Land Between the Lakes visitors. According to the Administration Land Between the Lakes is "the hub of tourism and recreation industry that annually generates \$400 million in economic activity in nine contiguous counties." TVA has the equipment, it has the resources and it has employees to do the job correctly. TVA has a vested interest in protecting the integrity of the land, a vested interest like the original landowners who want to assure their land in Kentucky receives the upmost care and protection. And Mr. President, people in the Commonwealth of Kentucky have deep cultural ties to the land. Land Between the Lakes is not just another recreation area—it is a part of family history. Kentuckians gave up their rights to property that had been in their family for generations, so the whole world would have the opportunity to enjoy Land Between the Lakes and its natural resources.

Creation of Land Between the Lakes as a national recreation area was not without incident. But over the years TVA has proven itself as a worthy guardian of one of Kentucky's most

precious resources. Land Between the Lakes is a place for both the young and old, Kentuckians and visitors to our state to appreciate nature in its purest form. TVA is keeping a promise made to the original land owners to conserve, protect and keep the land in its natural state.

Mr. President, a provision of this bill transfers the administrative authority of Land Between the Lakes to the National Forest Service if Congress does not appropriate \$6 million to manage the recreation area. But in Kentucky, we believe if it isn't broken don't fix it. The people of Kentucky who sacrificed their family land to create Land Between the Lakes do not want this transfer to occur. They cannot understand why people in Washington want to take away TVA's administrative authority of Land Between the Lakes when Kentuckians are happy with the status quo, and I'm having a hard time explaining why people who don't live in Kentucky are making this decision. It doesn't make sense to my constituents and I agree.

If Congress is willing to appropriate \$6 million for Land Between the Lakes for the Forest Service, then it's sending a clear message that it supports continued funding for Land Between the Lakes. If Congress intends to fund Land Between the Lakes then it makes sense to fund it through TVA, an established and successful route of management.

Who administers Land Between the Lakes may not be an issue of national importance, but for Kentuckians it is a matter of pride and honor in protecting their land. For the last couple of years we've all heard how important it is to give local communities the power to make decisions that directly affect their lives. When it's in Congress' best interest, they're all for giving local communities the power to make their own decisions. But for Kentuckians who gave up their land to help create Land Between the Lakes, Congress believes it knows better what's in their best interest.

This provision threatens the integrity of the land and the integrity of the people of Kentucky. My fellow Kentuckians have never been shy about letting me know what is best for them and I've never been afraid to listen. Transferring administrative authority of Land Between the Lakes away from TVA is a bad move. The proposal of this transfer has caused an emotional response and divided communities. It does not represent the best interest of Land Between the Lakes, the original landowners' families, nor the people of Kentucky.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, September 14, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,548,258,444,676.13 (Five trillion, five hundred forty-eight billion, two hundred fifty-eight million, four

hundred forty-four thousand, six hundred seventy-six dollars and thirteen cents).

Five years ago, September 14, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,387,136,000,000 (Four trillion, three hundred eighty-seven billion, one hundred thirty-six million).

Ten years ago, September 14, 1988, the federal debt stood at \$2,597,643,000,000 (Two trillion, five hundred ninety-seven billion, six hundred forty-three million).

Fifteen years ago, September 14, 1983, the federal debt stood at \$1,354,836,000,000 (One trillion, three hundred fifty-four billion, eight hundred thirty-six million).

Twenty-five years ago, September 14, 1973, the federal debt stood at \$461,118,000,000 (Four hundred sixty-one billion, one hundred eighteen million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,087,140,444,676.13 (Five trillion, eighty-seven billion, one hundred forty million, four hundred forty-four thousand, six hundred seventy-six dollars and thirteen cents) during the past 25 years.

DR. MARIAFRANCA MORSELLI

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to the life work of Dr. Mariafranca Morselli.

In 1964, it was our good fortune that Dr. Morselli joined the Maple Research team at the University of Vermont. She has been a family friend and an informal advisor to me for decades.

Her research has considerably helped the Maple Syrup Industry to improve production methods and the quality and maple products. This work has been invaluable to my home state.

Vermont is the largest producer of maple syrup in the United States. There are approximately 2000 sugarmakers in the state and the industry provides about 4000 jobs in Vermont. Maple sugaring is critical to maintaining the beauty of the working landscape of Vermont, providing added income to help family farms stay in business.

We take great pride in the worldwide acclaim for the quality and taste of Vermont maple products.

Dr. Morselli is a pioneer. She received her doctoral degree in Natural Sciences and Botany from the University of Milan, Italy in 1946, and taught in a college in Milan. After working in both Italy and the United States, she settled in Vermont to continue her research.

In 1983, she was the first woman to receive the Outstanding Service Award in research by the North American Maple Syrup Council. In 1988, she received three awards, each time as the first female recipient: the Research Service Award from the International Maple Syrup Institute; the Maple Syrup Person of the Year Award from the Vermont Maple Industry; and the Maple Syrup Producer of the Year Award from the Vermont Maple Sugar